

IN THE CLAIMS

The Claims of the application, as amended, are:

1. through 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An assembly for dispensing a liquid from a container to a mouth of an animal, on demand of the animal comprising a ~~sealed~~ container at least partially filled with the liquid, the container including a connecting tube extending from the container, the connecting tube containing a seal means in the form of a membrane; and a valve arrangement fitted thereto, the valve arrangement comprising a first tube portion piercing ~~a portion~~ the membrane of the seal means of the container to receive the liquid from the container, a second tube portion provided with an end adapted to be used by the animal, and a valve means adapted to be actuated by the animal to permit the flow of the liquid from the container to the end of the second tube portion.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the container is of rigid form comprising a filtered vent to relieve a vacuum created within the container as the liquid is dispensed therefrom to the animal.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the filtered vent comprises a Hepa filter.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the container is arranged to collapse under atmospheric pressure as the liquid is dispensed therefrom to the animal.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the container comprises a rigid material provided with a pleated surface.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the container is of bag-form comprising a flexible material.

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein container comprises a material selected from a plastics material, rubber, treated paper and cardboard, cloth and fibre materials.

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the container is hermetically sealed.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the container is provided within an outer wrapping to maintain sterility of the container prior to use.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the container comprises a material selected so as to be capable of being sterilised.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the container is provided with means for suspending it from suitable support means.

20. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the ~~portion~~ membrane of the seal means of the container pierced by the first tube portion of the valve arrangement is arranged to be pierced without leakage of the liquid occurring between the ~~portion~~ pierced membrane of

the container and an exterior of the first tube portion, the first tube portion forming a water-tight fit in the pierced ~~portion~~ membrane of the container.

21. and 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~21~~ 9, wherein the seal means is covered by a removable cap until access thereto for piercing is required.

24. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the valve arrangement is arranged to be fitted to the container and the container arranged to be secured to the structure.

25. (New) An assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the container is arranged to be secured to a structure associated with the animal.

26. (New) An assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the valve arrangement is adapted to be secured to a structure, associated with the animal, by means selected from a clip, a ferrule, a threaded cap, a grommet, a washer, a bracket and a cradle.

27. (New) An assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein a finger grip arrangement is provided on the valve arrangement to facilitate fitting of the valve arrangement to the container.

28. (New) An assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first tube portion of the valve arrangement has an end thereof shaped to form at least one sharply angled region, which sharply angled region facilitates piercing of the membrane of the seal means of the container by the first tube portion.

29. (New) An assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the valve means comprises a non-return valve actuated by the animal and adapted to permit flow of the liquid through the valve arrangement from the container towards the animal but to prevent any flow of the liquid from the animal to the container.